PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
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DONATIEN ROGER)	
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Application No.: 10/053,464)	
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Filed: January 18, 2002)	
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For: ONLINE CREATION AND)	
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Washington, D.C. 20231

SUBMISSION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

Sir:

In support of Applicant's claim for priority under the International

Convention and all rights to which he is entitled under 35 U.S.C. § 119, enclosed is the

certified copy of the following EPO Priority Applications:

01119350.5 filed on August 10, 2001

01114130.6 filed on June 11, 2001

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Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Eur päisches Patentamt	Eur pean Patent Office	Office européen des brev ts

Bescheinigung	Certificate	Attestation
Die angehefteten Unterlagen stimmen mit der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung der auf dem nächsten Blatt bezeichneten europäischen Patentanmeldung überein.	The attached documents are exact copies of the European patent application described on the following page, as originally filed.	Les documents fixés à cette attestation sont conformes à la version initialement déposée de la demande de brevet européen spécifiée à la page suivante.

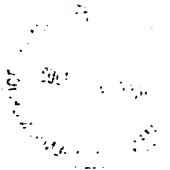| Patentanmeldung Nr.	Patent application No.	Demande de brevet n°
	01114130.6	

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets
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Blatt 2 der Bescheinigung
Sheet 2 of the certificate
Page 2 de l'attestation

Anmeldung Nr.:
Application no.: **01114130.6**
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Applicant(s):
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Bezeichnung der Erfindung:
Title of the invention:
Titre de l'invention:
   Online creation and management of enterprises

In Anspruch genommene Prioriät(en) / Priority(ies) claimed / Priorité(s) revendiquée(s)

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P24829EP

5   <u>**Online Creation and Management of Enterprises**</u>

Many efforts have been undertaken within the last time to carry out business electronically. In the following several examples for such efforts shall be cited:

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US 5,793,966 discloses a computer system and a computer-implemented process for the creation and maintenance of online services.

WO 01/01269 discloses an online virtual campus including interactive work plans and
15   administrative resources presented online through a web interface.

WO 00/52552 discloses a technique for electronic commerce transactions with a marketing system that may contain a membership buying opportunity.

20   WO 00/65443 discloses a virtual company network tool kit comprising a computer program product for creating, maintaining and destroying virtual environments. Preprogram software objects that perform predetermined functions are created and stored in a repository, the desired objects are selected and figured with user defined parameters to create and customise call processing system.

25

All of the above cited examples focus on single aspects of electronic business, but do not allow to integrate all functions necessary to create and manage an enterprise by means of one integrated platform.

30   In view of the prior art it is the object of the present invention to propose a technology for managing and creating enterprises virtually by means of a web interface.

This object is achieved by means of the features of the independent claims. The dependent claims develop further the central idea of the present invention.

35

According to a first aspect of the present invention a method for creating and managing enterprises on-line by means of applications running on a server in a datanet environment is proposed. The server can be accessed from clients over the datanet. The applications can be started by means of a graphical interface offered to the client. The

applications process data entered by the client or stored on distributed resources of the datanet. The applications generate data relevant for creating and/or managing an enterprise.

5   The graphical interface can offer pull-down menus which display the path the client has followed on the site tree.

     When entering date information, the current month and year can be automatically added once the client has entered a day and activated a predetermined button on a keyboard.
10

     When entering date information, the current year can be automatically added once the client has entered a day and month and activated a predetermined button on a keyboard.

     A business plan can be automatically generated by means of a question and answer
15   process.

     Financial planning and asset management applications can be provided.

     According to a further aspect of the present invention software program code for
20   implementing a method according to anyone of the preceding claims when run on a computing device in a network environment.

     According to a still further aspect of the present invention a system for creating and managing enterprises on-line is proposed. The system comprises a server with
25   applications in a datanet environment and the server can be accessed from clients over the datanet. The applications can be started by means of a graphical interface offered to the client. The applications process data entered by the client or stored on distributed resources of the datanet. The applications generate data relevant for creating and/or managing an enterprise.
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     Further aspects, advantages and features of the present invention will become evident for the man skilled in the art when reading the following detailed description of an embodiment of the present invention taken in conjunction with the figures of the enclosed drawings.
35

                    Fig. 1 shows schematically a system according to the present invention, and

3

Fig.2 shows a graphical interface proposed to the clients accessing the server.

5   The present invention proposes methods and techniques for an online creation and management of enterprises. To this object a corresponding application is run on a server in a data net environment for potential users which want to manage and/or create an enterprise virtually and online. The invention can particularly find application in the field of small and medium sized enterprises as well as for free professions.

10   In figure 1 it can be seen that according to the present invention a server 1 is provided which can be accessed by means of a data network (Internet) 2 from clients 3, 4. The server 1 on the other hand can access external data sources 5 directly or by means of the network 2.

15   Figure 2 shows a graphical interface 8 proposed to the user of a client 3, 4. The main modules are the „start business module" 6 and the „create business module" 7. All of the items can be accessed by means of pull down menus 9.

20   This online application according to the present invention is a software program that is bound to be used directly from a browser from a client. Data used or generated by means of this online application can be stored for example on a dedicated Unix server in a web environment. To ensure the security of the data, a highly secured server comprising a Unix operating system, redundant hard discs, firewall protection systems, etc. is used to run the online application.

25   The application presents pull-down menus to the user. The pull-down menus can be compared to a side map such that the user is always aware where he is. The path the user has followed and the side tree appears in black on the pull-down menu such that the user can directly navigate to pages he already has visited before in comparison to

30   clicking backwards until the wanted page is accessed again.

Data of the users are associated to a corporate account as well as one or more user accounts (sub-accounts), such as for example manager, employees, CPI, bank, shareholder, etc . To create a corporate account, a login button has to be activated.

35   When a corporate account is created, the first user is also created being the administrator. The administrator can do any action such as updating or editing as well as creating new users. The administrator can furthermore create new administrators, who will equally benefit from such privileges.

By default the first user (administrator) bears the same name as the corporate account. This default can of course be changed later on (for example to „admin"). The administrator is the only user of a certain account who can create users and grant them rights. Thereto the administrator has to be logged in as „administrator". Once a user
5   is logged in as „administrator", new user accounts can be added and the rights of these added users can be defined.

The application provides keyboard short cuts to speed up data entry.

10   For example, to input data, the month and year can be automatically added by the application once the day and the enter key are entered. As soon as the current day and the current month are input, the year is automatically inserted.

The data entry is further accelerated by the function of moving the cursor from one data
15   entry field to another data entry field by activating the enter key of the keyboard.

The application according to the present invention has two major aspects, i.e. starting/creating a business online as well as managing business online.

20   To start/create a business online, a suit of online applications aimed at starting (virtually) a business is proposed, such as legal forms and an automatically edited business plan. The business plan contains an evaluation program.

Calculations are preferably carried out by means of two-way spreadsheets.
25

Furthermore, online legal forms are provided allowing the creation of all documents required to incorporate a business legally. Shares can be computed automatically. The business plan module is designed to be easy to use. This module contains an evaluation program in case the user decides to purchase another small company (store, restaurant,
30   service company, etc.).

The form sheet of the online business plan module can be filled out in a question and answer type.

35   When starting the business plan module, at first it has to be decided whether the user wants to start a new company or purchase an existing one. What-if scenarios can also be applied on an existing business. If an existing business is planed to be bought, evaluation of this business can be performed based on the company profile.

5

A financing sub-module computes financing needs. Loan payments are computed automatically and the budget is updated accordingly.

5   The result of carrying out the procedure according to the business plan module is a report which can for example be submitted to a bank to get a loan.

In the following the features of the business online management module will be explained.

10 The business management online module a suit of online applications for running a business (virtually). This module comprising among others the following sub-modules:

- Financing: Entrance, re-financing, placements,
- What-if scenarios, profitability of investments: Break even point,
15   profitability of a marketing campaign,
- Managing of assets: Assets can be located at several places and/or at several departments in the company. The fixed assets can be managed from an accounting standpoint: Allowances for depreciation, financial projections, etc.

20

The business online management module furthermore comprises the following sub-modules:

- Financing: Salaries, etc.
25   - Re-financing a loan
      - Shareholders current accounts
- Managing of assets (PCs, software, etc.)
      - Inventory
      - Export to spread sheet programs
30   - Input forms
      - Sample output statements

The financing sub-modules consists a large set of calculation tools such as for example calculation of the re-financing of a loan. The user can perform simulations and find out
35 what the real benefit is.

Other financing tools are:

- Monthly, quarterly payments, etc.

- Daily interests
- How much the user can borrow based on how much he can pay every month
- „Infine" mortgages
- Converting an annual rate to a monthly rate, daily rate or vice versa
- Refunding a loan in advance
- Buying or renting
- Shareholders current accounts: Shareholders can put money on their current account for the company, current account holders are entitled to receive interests.

Assets such as computers, software licences, furniture, machines can be managed. All the assets can be managed across several location of the company. Furthermore, forecast fixed assets and deprecations for several years can be managed. The following are examples of the asset management possibilities:

- Inventory per location and/or department in the company,
- Sort assets by category,
- Computation of fixed assets and deprecations from an accounting standpoint: Deprecations (straight-line, double-declining, some-of-years-digits, ...),
- Accounting entries, capital gains,
- Five-year financial projections

It is the particular advantage of the present invention that a plurality of users do not only share files on a common server, but applications running on a server, which applications allow to create and manage virtually and online a business.

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Claims:

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1. Method for creating and managing enterprises on-line by means of applications running on a server (1) in a datanet environment, wherein
- the server (1) can be accessed from clients (3, 4) over the datanet (2),
10 - the applications can be started by means of a graphical interface (8) offered to the client (3, 4),
- the applications process data entered by the client (3, 4) or stored on distributed resources (5), and
- the applications generate data relevant for creating and/or managing an enterprise.

15

2. Method for creating and managing enterprises according to claim 1, characterised in that
the graphical interface (8) offers pull-down menus which display the path the client (3, 4) has followed on the site tree.

20

3. Method according to anyone of claims 1 or 2, characterised in that
when entering date information, the current month and year are automatically added once the client (3, 4) has entered a day and activated a predetermined button on a
25 keyboard.

4. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that
when entering date information, the current year is automatically added once the client
30 (3, 4) has entered a day and month and activated a predetermined button on a keyboard.

5. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that
a business plan can be automatically generated by means of a question and answer
35 process.

6. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, characterised in that
financial planning and asset management applications are provided.

7. Software program code,

implementing a method according to anyone of the preceding claims when run on a computing device in a network environment.

5

8. System for creating and managing enterprises on-line, wherein

- the system comprises a server (1) with applications in a datanet environment (2) and the server (1) can be accessed from clients (3, 4) over the datanet (2),

- the applications can be started by means of a graphical interface (8) offered to the
10   client (3, 4),

- the applications process data entered by the client (3, 4) or stored on distributed resources (5),

- and the applications generate data relevant for creating and/or managing an enterprise.
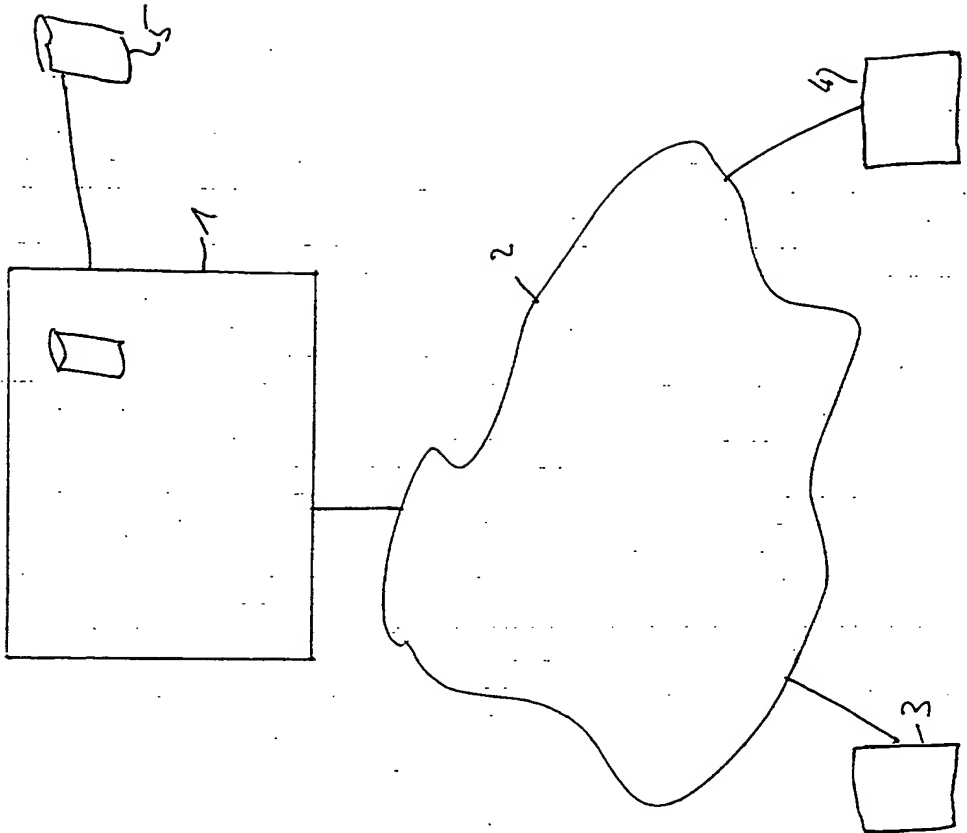
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Abstract:

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A method for creating and managing enterprises on-line by means of applications running on a server (1) in a datanet environment (2) is proposed. Thereby the server (1) can be accessed from clients (3, 4) over the datanet (2). The applications can be started by means of a graphical interface (8) offered to the client. The applications

10   process data entered by the client (3, 4) or stored on distributed resources (5). The applications generate data relevant for creating and/or managing an enterprise.

(Fig. 1)

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Fig. 1

Fig.2